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The volume has two very provoking and unaccountable defects. It is without any map of the region of sea and land on which the exploits that it records were performed. In such a work a map is absolutely essential, and is worth a hundred "illustrations by Phiz." And it is without any index or table of contents. We hope that in a second edition these defects may be remedied; and that any American publisher who may re-issue the work will copy nothing but the text of the English edition,—not its plates nor its binding.

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14.—*Oriental and Western Siberia: a Narrative of Seven Years' Explorations and Adventures in Siberia, Mongolia, the Kirghis Steppes, Chinese Tartary, and Part of Central Asia.* By THOMAS WITLAM ATKINSON. With a Map and numerous Illustrations. New York: Harper and Brothers. 1858. 8vo. pp. 533.

FROM the rare opportunities of this author, his long stay in the region which he describes, and the novelty of the subject itself, this book of Siberian travel ought to be exceedingly interesting. But there are several hinderances to our pleasure in reading it. The egotism of the writer is intense and intolerable. The pronoun of the first person singular, in all its inflexions, is omnipresent, and "I," "my," and "me" stud the pages like stars in a cloudless sky. In modesty Mr. Atkinson is the reverse of Dr. Livingstone, and he never fails to tell all the valiant and remarkable deeds that he did, might have done, or came near doing. The real merit of his exploits needed not such excess of personal parade. The style of the volume is loose, incorrect, and singularly inartistic, when we consider that the writer is an artist by profession. However skilful he may be with the pencil, he does not produce pen-pictures of more than mediocre value. Describing scenery so fine that it can be characterized only by superlatives, he never renders his descriptions graphic, or enables us by his word to see the beauty he praises. He makes the mountains, the glens, the waterfalls, the caverns, very commonplace and tiresome, and he succeeds best when he states facts, and spares us his impressions. There is a strange want of proportion and fitness in his details. He evidently was tired of his work long before he finished it, and he despatches the last and most important half of his journey in a few closing pages, in the most careless manner. What we want most to know, the manners, temper, local prejudices, laws, and religion of the various tribes, and their relations to one another and to the Russian government, we fail in great measure to learn here. The accounts of mining in the Ural and the Altai

Mountains are not without merit ; but a skilful disposition of the facts would have made them much more readable. The diction is not, indeed, turgid or tawdry, but it is usually tame, and sometimes insipid. Mr. Atkinson constantly speaks of "Nature" as "Dame Nature," of Time as "old Father Time," when there is no need of these pleasing qualifications. He is perpetually comparing his present with his past impressions and sensations, telling us that this or that scene is "the finest that he ever saw." And all through the volume there is an edifying confusion of relatives and their antecedents, of participles and their governing nouns.

One who should judiciously condense this book would do a service both to the author and to his readers. Much of the matter is new ; much is valuable ; especially that which relates the remarkable physical features and phenomena of these high latitudes. The frequency and violence of thunder-storms is the most noteworthy thing that Mr. Atkinson tells of Siberia. He mentions that larch-trees are peculiarly liable to be struck by lightning. The most remarkable "social phenomenon" which he describes is an assembly of Cossack ladies, who sat for a long time without speaking a word. He shows, too, that it is possible to enjoy a day's hard sporting, clothed only with hat and boots.

It is to be regretted that a traveller so persevering as Mr. Atkinson should not be able to tell more satisfactorily what he has seen.

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15.—*Roumania: the Border Land of the Christian and the Turk; comprising Adventures of Travel in Eastern Europe and Western Asia.* By JAMES A. NOYES, M. D., Surgeon in the Ottoman Army. New York: Rudd and Carleton. 1857. 12mo. pp. 520.

As a pleasant and spirited record of rapid travel and hasty observation, this volume is entitled to praise. It is very readable. But as an account of the Rouman people, it is very inadequate, not to say superficial. Considerably less than half of the book is devoted to those Danubian Principalities in which the Rouman people dwell ; and more than a third is occupied in describing the familiar wonders of Stamboul and the Euxine, and the faith and customs of Islam. The title is a misnomer. All that is valuable concerning "the Border Land" is borrowed from the work of Ubicini. We have no new information on precisely that subject on which fresh information would be of worth,—the feeling of the people in regard to the proposed union of the provinces. Dr. Noyes stayed six weeks in Bucharest, the capital of Wallachia, but he seems to have visited no other part of the province, and